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CLAIMS:

1. A ventilation system comprising:
an envelope including a hollow interior and at least one breathable surface portion allowing gas to pass from a surrounding area of the envelope to
5 the hollow interior through said at least one breathable surface portion of the envelope;
a suction port coupled to the envelope in communication with the hollow interior of the envelope; and
suction means for communication with the suction port for drawing
10 gas from the surrounding area and into the suction port, through said at least one breathable surface portion of the envelope.
2. The system according to Claim 1 wherein the envelope includes a pair of the breathable surface portions at spaced positions from one another.
- 15 3. The system according to Claim 2 wherein each breathable surface portion is elongate in a respective longitudinal direction lying substantially parallel to the longitudinal direction of the other breathable surface portion.
4. The system according to Claim 2 wherein the breathable surface portions are raised in relation to a central portion spanning therebetween
20 which is flexible.
5. The system according to Claim 2 wherein there is provided a support structure supporting the breathable surface portions raised above a bottom side of the envelope.
6. The system according to Claim 1 wherein said at least one
25 breathable surface portion is located only in an upper side of the envelope.
7. The system according to Claim 1 wherein the envelope includes an outer shell substantially impermeable to gas particles, said at least one breathable surface portion spanning an opening in the outer shell.

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8. The system according to Claim 7 wherein both the outer shell and said at least one breathable surface portion are formed of pliable material.

5 9. The system according to Claim 1 wherein the envelope includes a pair of breathable surface portions at spaced positions from one another on opposing sides of a central portion, the central portion being suitably sized for supporting a head of a person thereon.

10 10. The system according to Claim 9 wherein there is provided a support structure supporting the central portion suspended above a bottom side of the envelope.

11. The system according to Claim 9 wherein there is provided a selectively separable cover supported on an upper side of the envelope, spanning between the breathable surface portions which are commonly located in the upper side of the envelope.

15 12. The system according to Claim 1 wherein there is provided a support structure supporting an upper side of the envelope spaced above a lower side of the envelope.

13. The system according to Claim 12 wherein at least a portion of the upper side of the envelope is flexible.

20 14. The system according to Claim 12 wherein the support structure comprises an internal support structure surrounded by the envelope which supports upper and lower sides of the envelope spaced from one another spanning between the suction port and said at least one breathable surface portion.

25 15. The system according to Claim 14 wherein the envelope is fully flexible.

16. The system according to Claim 14 wherein the internal support structure is generally U-shaped to include a base portion and two side

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portions, one of said at least one breathable surface portions being located at each of the side portions and the suction port being located at the base portion.

17. The system according to Claim 12 wherein the support structure comprises stiff material integrally formed with the envelope.

5 18. The system according to Claim 17 wherein a bottom side and a pair of opposed upright side walls of the envelope are formed of said stiff material.

19. The system according to Claim 18 wherein the upper portion of the envelope is flexible and spans the upright side walls.

10 20. The system according to Claim 18 wherein there is provided one of said at least one breathable surface portions adjacent each of the upright side walls.